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CLASSIFICATION

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

9325X1

TOPIC Soviet Supply Installations in the Area of Bad Saarow-Fuerstenwalde-Wilmersdorf

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 10 September to 1 November 1951

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 30 November 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 10 September and 1 November 1951, a new building, 120 to 150 meters long, was almost completed at the signal equipment depot in Bad Saarow. The building is located in the northern section of the depot, which was enlarged about 120 meters to the north. Additional low permanent barracks were under construction. The water system was to be extended, so that each house would be supplied; and fire ponds were constructed. The Soviet unit at the depot, about 200 troops, was absent for field exercises at the time of observation.

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2. The depot in Bad Saarow referred to as "Aktion Brand" (Project Firebrand) was dissolved. The 30 to 40 troops stationed there and the equipment were to move to the newly constructed building at the signal equipment depot. Formerly, old radio sets had been repaired, and German equipment cannibalized, at the depot. Large building sites were in the woods south and west of the former depot. The Potsdam Bauunion probably is building a large hospital, which was projected already before 1945 and is allegedly destined for German Volkspolizei use.

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The ammunition stored in the southern section of the depot was loaded on boxcars and shipped to the ammunition depot at Wilmersdorf. (5)

4. Intensive railroad traffic was observed at the ammunition depot at Wilmersdorf daily until about mid-October 1951. Shipments leaving the depot toward Beeskow included 15 carloads each on 25 and 29 October and 27 carloads each on 9 and 15 October. The volume of traffic has decreased and, as of 1 November the rate of outgoing shipments was between 3 and 10 carloads. A new penal company of soldiers of all branches of service arrived at the ammunition depot about the beginning of October. All German workers were dismissed. (7)
5. During the second half of September 1951, numerous amphibious vehicles arrived at the Soviet engineer depot, Ketschendorf. They were put on blocks in the open and covered with tarpaulins. Most of the vehicles were tripartite pontoons for bridge construction. A penal company arrived at the depot at the beginning of October. The soldiers were employed for work on the pontoons and assault boats. With the exception of several German specialists who had been definitely proved loyal, all German workers were dismissed on 15 October. (8)

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Comments.

- (1) The information confirms the signal equipment depot of the GOFG [redacted] in the woods just northwest of Pieskow railroad station until the beginning of November 1951. The data on an enlargement of the depot and the absence of the troops for field exercises are given credence.

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- (2) [redacted]
- (3) The supply depot about 1 km northwest of the signal depot, which is referred to as "Aktion Brand" (Project Firebrand), is believed to be a branch of the signal depot. It is possible that this branch depot will be transferred to the newly constructed building at the signal depot. Because of its location on Scharmuetzel Lake, the vacated depot will probably later be included in the hospital or sanatorium now under construction.

- (4) [redacted]
- (5) The former quarters of the German barrage balloon troops are in the woods just southeast of the Bad Saarow-Ost railroad station and house an ammunition and ration supply depot, which is probably subordinate to the Fourth Gds Mecz Army. The shipping of ammunition from there to the ammunition depot at Wilmersdorf appears possible.

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- (6) [redacted]

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- (7) The increase of incoming ammunition at the depot in Wilmersdorf was previously reported. [redacted] An increase in the rate of outgoing shipments had not been listed in reports on rail movements prior to mid-September 1951. The present report confirms previous conclusions that the present increase of incoming ammunition is to refill stocks used by the troops in field exercises and maneuvers rather than the stock-piling at the depots. The dismissal of all German workers from an ammunition depot is reported for the first time. Confirmatory information is required.
- (8) The information confirms the engineer depot of the GOFG, [redacted] Ketschen-  
dorf. The depot probably includes two branch plants; one just west of Berkenbrueck and one at the bend of the autobahn near Ketschendorf. The shipments of amphibious vehicles during the second half of September 1951 were not listed in reports on rail movements. However, the information on their arrival at the depot is given credence. The arrival of the amphibious cars there cannot be connected with the engineer river-crossing practice held in September and October 1951 as these practices were conducted in the area Dessau-Rosslau. Therefore, the materiel is probably to be stored. Further information is required. The dismissal of German personnel is reported for the first time.

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